Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

Volume 3 Chapter 15

A Lost Heaven Project
#lost-heaven @ irc.irchighway.net

Translated/Edited by
aechris

Raw Provider
Dark_Gatsu

Release Date: March 2, 2004

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JUMP COMICS

Puppet Storybook

人形草紙 あやつり左近

Ayatsuri Sakon

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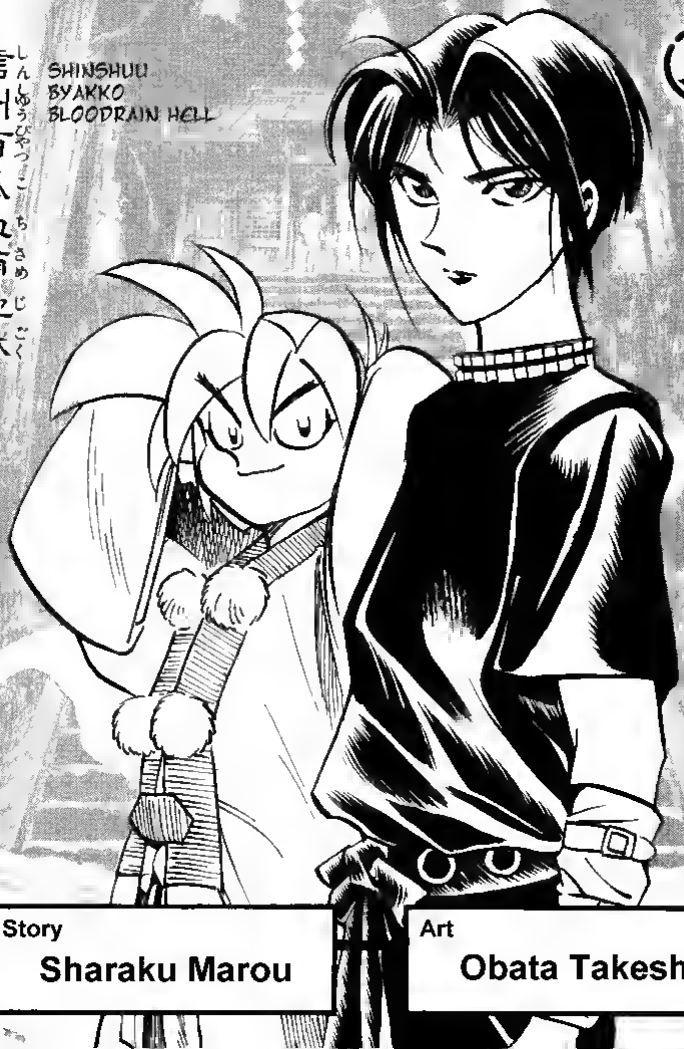
信州百狐血雨地獄

SHINSHUU BYAKKO BLOODRAIN HELL



Story
Sharaku Marou

Art
Obata Takeshi

Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Volume 3 Shinshuu Byakko Bloodrain Hell

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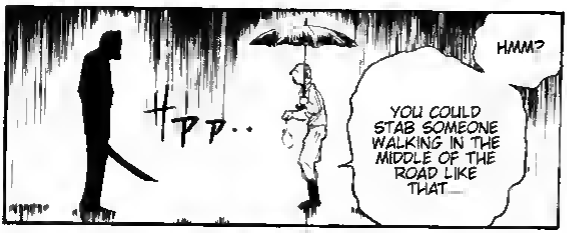
ザアア..


ザア..
HMM?
YOU COULD STAB SOMEONE WALKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD LIKE THAT...

HEY.

BYA-BYAKKO!!

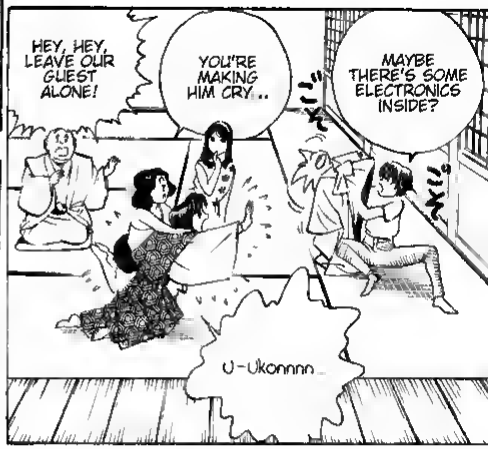
バシィ..
UH, HE-HELP ME...
HELP ME...

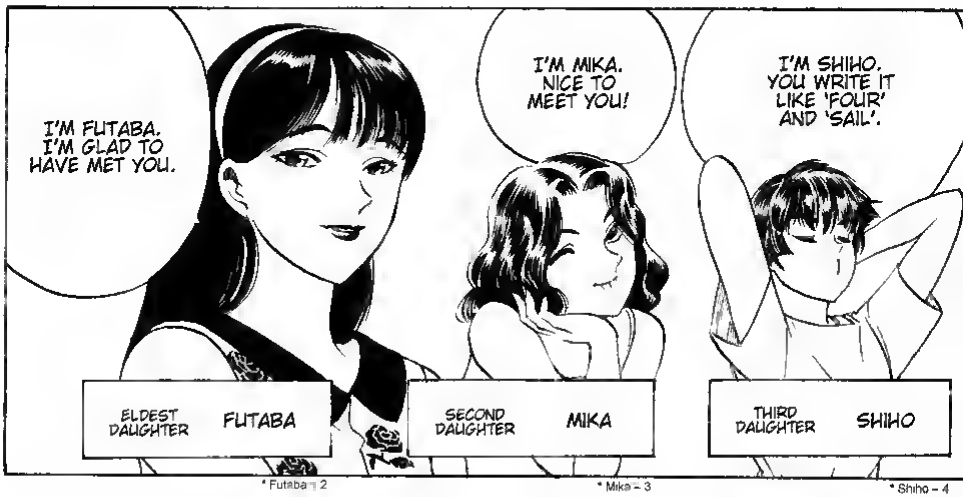
ザシュ

WITH THIS CASE, THIS VISION IS AGAIN AWAKENED.
THE DOWNPOURING RAIN TRANSFORMS THE HYDRANGEAS, DYING THEM BEAUTIFUL COLOURS. IN A WORLD OF DELICATE SENSATIONS SUCH AS THESE, COULD THEY POSSIBLY DRIVE ONE TO MADNESS?
SHINSHUU AKIZUKI RESIDENCE
Like a long dream in Sonezaki...
The forest's dew is scattered.
信州百狐血雨地獄
第一段・妖刀村正
SHINSHUU BYAKKO BLOODRAIN HELL—
CHAPTER 1: LEGENDARY SWORD MURAMASA

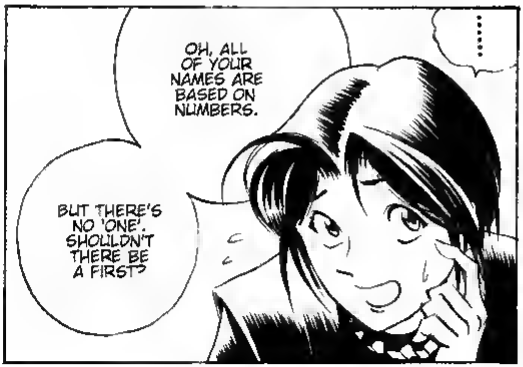
YOUR HAND FOR CLASSICAL THEATRE IS BEAUTIFUL, AS I WOULD EXPECT FROM THE GRANDSON OF A NATIONAL TREASURE!
OH! SPLENDID! REALLY MARVELLOUS!
I LAUGHED AND I CRIED AT THE DANCING FIGURE, FOR A WHILE THERE I FORGOT IT WAS A PUPPET!
AKIZUKI SOUSHIROU AKIZUKI FAMILY FATHER
THAT'S WHY I WATCHED SO CRITICALLY, AND THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND YOU'LL BE FAMOUS IN THE FUTURE!
FINE ARTS AND CLASSICAL THEATRE HAVE BEEN MY HOBBY FOR A LONG TIME NOW...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING??
NO, IT'S NOT THAT GOOD..

スッ…!
AH, I DIDN'T FIND IT TOO INTERESTING, BUT THE PUPPETEER IS PRETTY CUTE.
huh?
huh?
DIDN'T YOU FIND IT BORING? WERE THERE ANY PARTS YOU LIKED, FUTABA?
HUH?
HEE HEE, HOW OLD ARE YOU? DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
サラ…!
LET'S GIVE THIS BOY A WARM WELCOME, HMM?
WHEN DAD SAID A PUPPETEER WAS COMING I EXPECTED AN OLD GRANDPA
……
IT REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE HE'S ALIVE, BUT FOR SURE IT'S JUST A PUPPET.
むぎゅ
!!
I THINK HE'S UP TO SOMETHING, THAT FACE IS TOO CUTE TO BE A PUPPET!
AH!
……




I'M FUTABA. I'M GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU.
I'M MIKA. NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M SHIHO. YOU WRITE IT LIKE 'FOUR' AND 'SAIL'.
ELDEST DAUGHTER FUTABA
SECOND DAUGHTER MIKA
THIRD DAUGHTER SHIHO

* Futaba = 2 * Mika = 3 * Shiho = 4

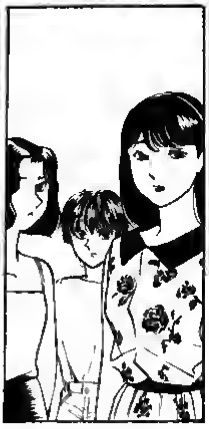


!!
ガアアア
……
WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE FACES, HUH?
HA HA HA, WAIT, WAIT!
IT'S NOTHING. IT'S NO GOOD TO HAVE SCARY FACES LIKE THAT, RIGHT...?
?
……

A PASSERBY WAS JUST KILLED WITH A SWORD...
YOSHIDA KENJI POLICEMAN
SIR, THERE'S A POLICEMAN HERE. HE SAYS IT'S URGENT.
SOME TROUBLE HAS COME UP.
M-MR. AKIZUKI
COULD IT HAVE BEEN...?
A SWORD, HUH.
WITH A SWORD!?
.....
KYOICHI...?
HAS K-KYOICHI RETURNED?
IT CAN'T BE!

HIPPP

IN ANY CASE, IF KYOUICHI CONTACTS YOU, YOU MUST CALL ME RIGHT AWAY.
UNTIL WE UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION, STAY HERE IN CASE HE SHOWS UP.



SIR, TELEPHONE...
WHO WOULD BE CALLING AT SUCH A BUSY TIME...?
HE DIDN'T SAY HIS NAME.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

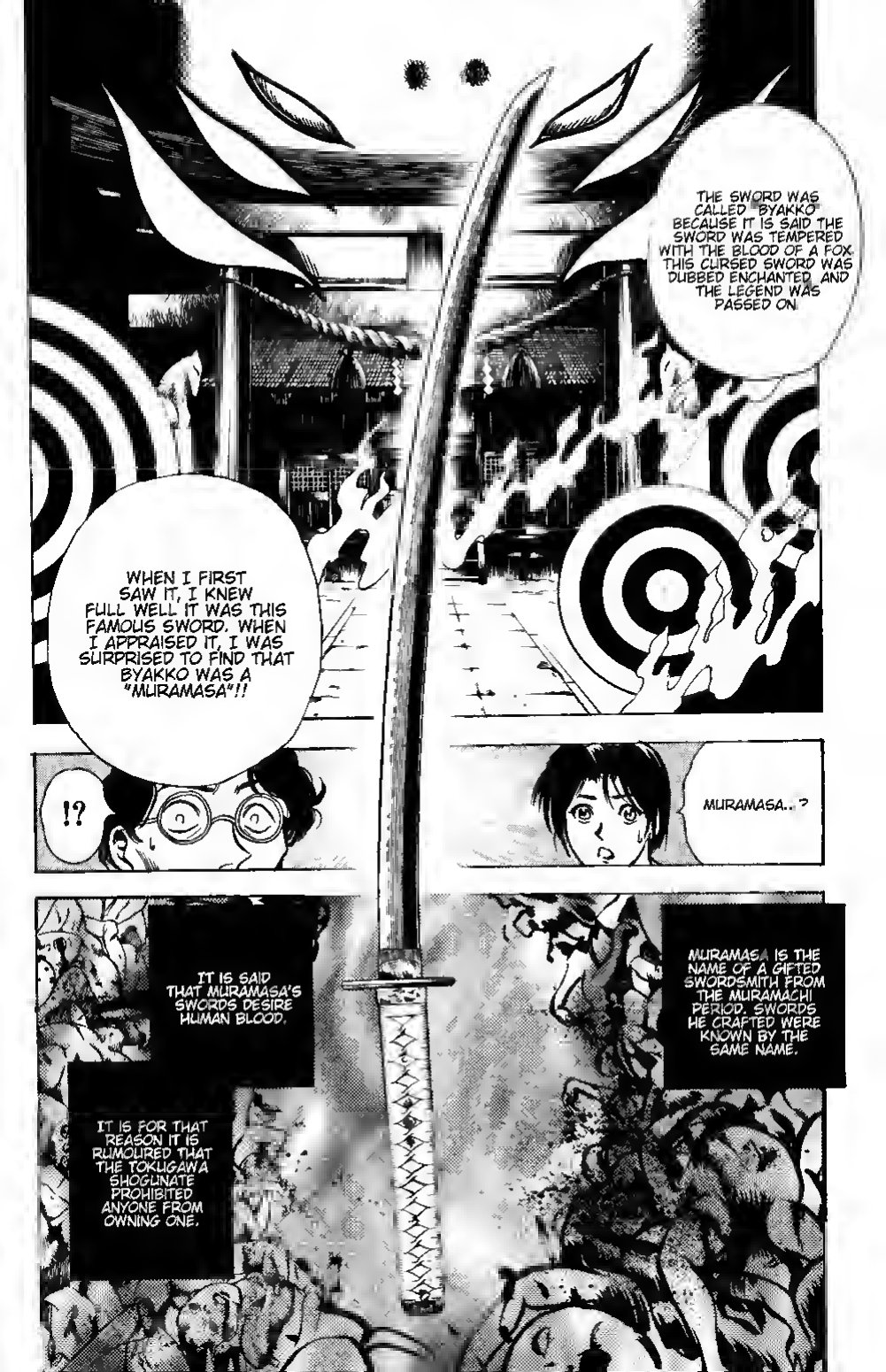
SUCH A STRANGE STATE OF AFFAIRS...
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

ザアアア...
LOOK FUTABA, ISN'T IT RAINING SO HARD!
シト
シト...
THERE'S A LITTLE MATTER I NEED TO ATTEND TO...
THANKS FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SHOW YOU OUR HOSPITALITY, AND I REALLY MUST APOLOGIZE.
スゥ...

AH! DAD!?
I WON'T BE TOO LONG. PLEASE, NO ONE COME TO THE STUDY.
HM? DAD...
HMPH
.....
HEY! YOU DON'T KNOW IF IT'S HIM OR NOT!
I GUESS OUR BROTHER'S NOT SATISFIED WITH THE TROUBLE HE'S MADE ALREADY.
WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK DAD'S IN SUCH A STATE?
WHAT WAS WITH THE EXPRESSION ON YOUR DAD'S FACE?
IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.
.....

ガラッ
KYOUICHI SHOWED UP!?
OH!
カッチ
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT STOPPED RAINING.
ビタ
ビタ
OH, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A VISITOR, SORRY.
OKI!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, OKI.
HE'S IN THE STUDY, BUT HE ASKED FOR NO ONE TO GO NEAR.
……
I FELT INSECURE WITHOUT A MAN IN THE HOUSE
ぶる
ぶる
ぶる
SO, WHERE'S YOUR DAD?
OKI KATSUMI
CLASSICAL ARTS DEALER

FUTABA!!
TELL ME THE STORY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE'RE IN!!!
I'M YOUR FIANCEE! I-I HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON HERE!?
FUTABA-CHAN. KIKUCHI IS INVOLVED IN THIS TOO, WE SHOULD EXPLAIN IT TO HIM.
I'M A CLASSICAL ARTS DEALER.
FOR GENERATIONS, THERE'S BEEN A SWORD PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE AKIZUKI FAMILY.
THIS WHOLE STABBING INCIDENT BEGAN ONE YEAR AGO. I WAS CALLED BY THEIR FATHER TO APPRAISE THAT SWORD.


THE SWORD WAS CALLED "BYAKKO" BECAUSE IT IS SAID THE SWORD WAS TEMPERED WITH THE BLOOD OF A FOX. THIS CURSED SWORD WAS DUBBED ENCHANTED AND THE LEGEND WAS PASSED ON.
WHEN I FIRST SAW IT, I KNEW FULL WELL IT WAS THIS FAMOUS SWORD. WHEN I APPRAISED IT, I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND THAT BYAKKO WAS A "MURAMASA"!!
!?
MURAMASA..?
MURAMASA IS THE NAME OF A GIFTED SWORDSMITH FROM THE MURAMACHI PERIOD. SWORDS HE CRAFTED WERE KNOWN BY THE SAME NAME.
IT IS SAID THAT MURAMASA'S SWORDS DESIRE HUMAN BLOOD.
IT IS FOR THAT REASON IT IS RUMOURED THAT THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE PROHIBITED ANYONE FROM OWNING ONE.

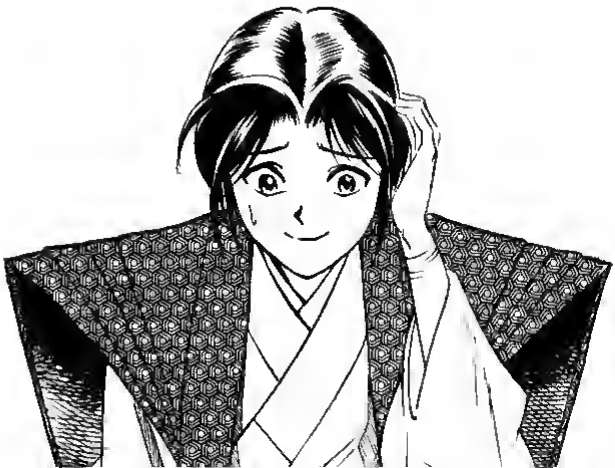
THE SWORD'S LEGEND HAS COME TO LIFE. I THINK IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION AS TO WHY OUR OLDER BROTHER IS DOING THIS.
ONE YEAR AGO, HE SUDDENLY TOOK BYAKKO AND DISAPPEARED. CONCURRENTLY, THREE PEOPLE WERE STABBED ON THE ROADS.
TO THIS DAY, MY BROTHER WAS NEVER FOUND
.....
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? THEY'RE SAYING OUR ELDER BROTHER IS THE CRIMINAL
FUTABA! IS THAT REALLY TRUE!?
PEOPLE WERE MURDERED IN THIS HOUSE??
YOU THINK HE MURDERED THOSE PEOPLE, HUH?
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT! THERE'S NO EVIDENCE!
NO ONE'S SEEN THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY HIM!!
SHIHO.
YOU ALL ACT LIKE HE'S THE CRIMINAL, BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP ON HIM!

HELLO??
WHO IS THIS?
HELLO? HELLO?
?
YES, HELLO?
click
!
KYOUICHI.
UM, KYOUICHI...?
HELLO!! WHO IS IT!?

Y-YOUR FATHER'S... DEAD!!?
GIVE ME THE PHONE!!
KYOICHI, WHAT IS IT!? IT'S ME! OK!!
HELLO, IS THIS KYOUICHI!?
HUH? WHAT THE HELL...!?
WHAT!?

ツ――ツ――
ゴオオオオ
THE BLOOD-STAINED MURAMASA.
ONCE AGAIN, IT COMES TO CLAIM BLOOD IN A MODERN-DAY SETTING... WHAT'S HAPPENING...!!?



JUMP COMICS

二巻

あやかし三昧

人形草紙（からくりぞうし）

信州百狐血雨地獄

原作 写楽麿　漫画 小畑健

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YOUR FATHER'S DEAD!!?
IT'S ME, OKI!!
HELLO!? KYOUICHI? IS THIS KYOUICHI!?

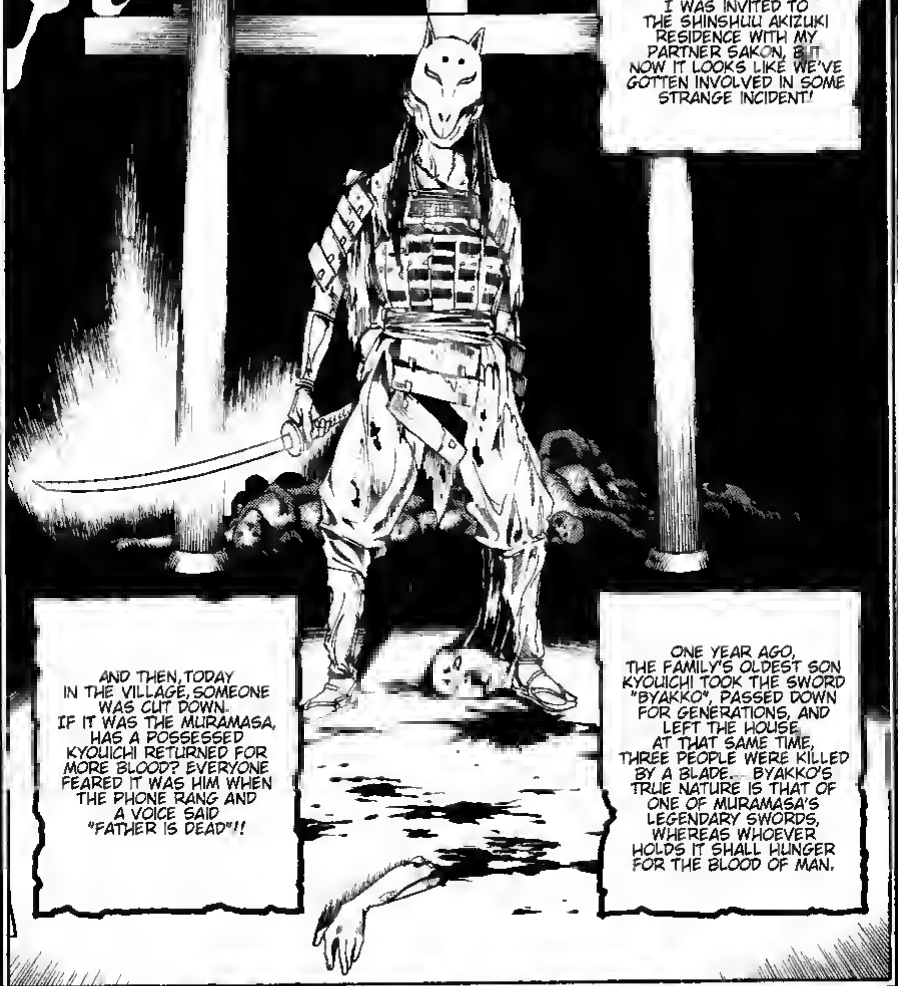
WHAT!? NANA...
KYOUICHI, WHERE ARE YOU!? WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW!?

HEY, KYOUICHI!! HELLO? HELLO!!?
NANAMAGARI VALLEY!?

信州百狐血雨地獄

第二段 何かおかしい!?

SHINSHUU BYAKKO BLOODRAIN HELL
CHAPTER-2—WHAT'S STRANGE!?



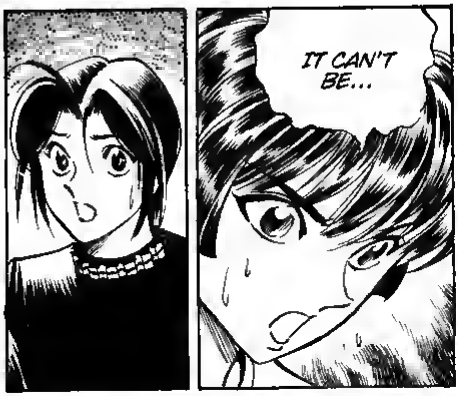
HEY!!
MY NAME'S LIKON
MASTERPIECE CHILD
PUPPET BORN IN THE
SECOND YEAR
OF THE MEIJI PERIOD!
I WAS INVITED TO
THE SHINSHUU AKIZUKI
RESIDENCE WITH MY
PARTNER SAKON, BUT
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE
GOTTEN INVOLVED IN SOME
STRANGE INCIDENT!

ONE YEAR AGO,
THE FAMILY'S OLDEST SON
KYOUICHI TOOK THE SWORD
"BYAKKO", PASSED DOWN
FOR GENERATIONS, AND
LEFT THE HOUSE.
AT THAT SAME TIME,
THREE PEOPLE WERE KILLED
BY A BLADE... BYAKKO'S
TRUE NATURE IS THAT OF
ONE OF MURAMASA'S
LEGENDARY SWORDS,
WHEREAS WHOEVER
HOLDS IT SHALL HUNGER
FOR THE BLOOD OF MAN.

AND THEN, TODAY
IN THE VILLAGE, SOMEONE
WAS CUT DOWN.
IF IT WAS THE MURAMASA,
HAS A POSSESSED
KYOUICHI RETURNED FOR
MORE BLOOD? EVERYONE
FEARED IT WAS HIM WHEN
THE PHONE RANG AND
A VOICE SAID
"FATHER IS DEAD"!!

...KILLED DAD!?
KYOUICHI...

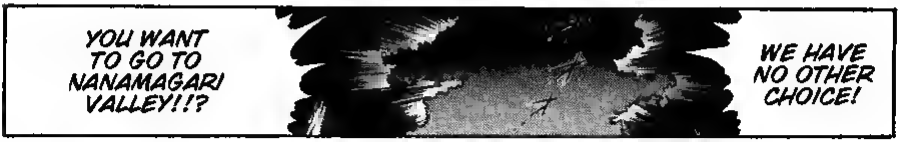
THAT'S 4 OR 5 KILOMETRES FROM HERE. KYOUICHI USED TO GO FISHING THERE...
NANA-MA-GARI VALLEY!?


IT CAN'T BE...

W-WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR!? LET'S GO, QUICK!!

OH!!
WAIT, SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT!! WASN'T DAD IN THE STUDY!?

THE DOOR IS OPEN!!!
!!


YOU WANT TO GO TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY!!?
WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!

I'LL DRIVE!!

YOU DON'T KNOW THE WAY.

HURRY UP!!
ダッ

WHAT? YOU'RE COMING TOO?
AH.
COUGH
COUGH
ガヴ
ボン
WHATEVER, LET'S JUST GET GOING!!
オオオ
ゴオ
DAMN, WHAT A SITUATION!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING!!

LOOK OUT!!!
AHH!!

I KNOW THE WAY FROM HERE LET'S HURRY.
THE OTHER CAR IS ALREADY OUT OF SIGHT.
AH,
ブロロ
MAN, THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
I'M SORRY, I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS ROAD.
ハラ
ハラ
!?
ゴト
ゴト
!!
D-DAD...!!
チョッ
.....
HEY, WHAT IS IT!?
ﾆｭｯ
IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?

HE'S BEEN KILLED!
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S REALLY HIM!
H-HE'S DEAD...!!!

THE LEGENDARY SWORD MURAMASA REALLY IS CURSED!
KYOUICHI REALLY HAS BEEN POSSESSED BY THAT BLADE...

……
ポッ
ポッ

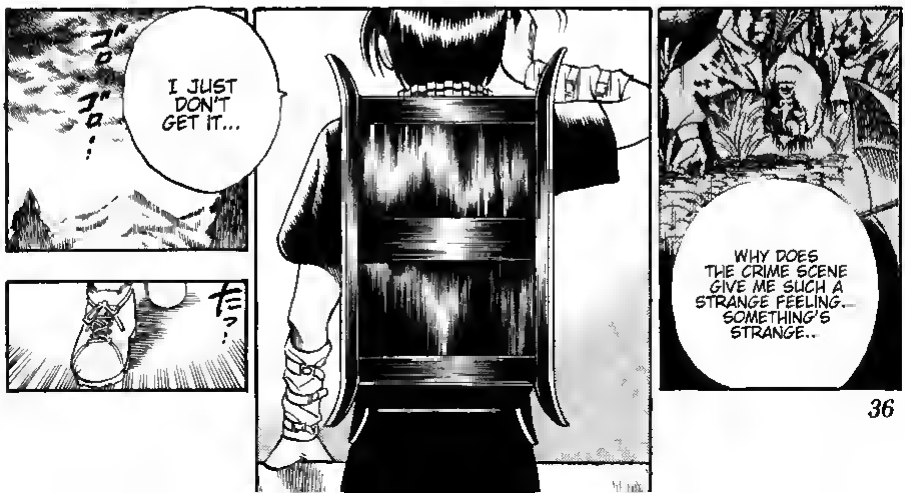
WHAT'S STRANGE ...?
!?
WHAT IS IT ...?
WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT THIS CRIME SCENE...?

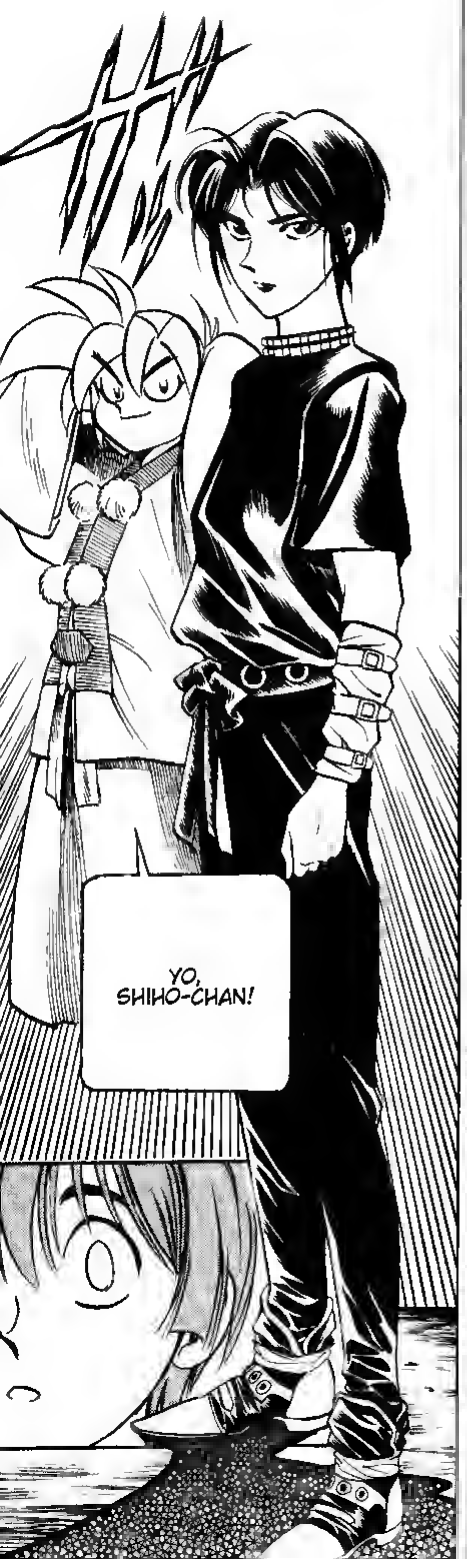
DID MR. AKIZUKI WALK THIS MOUNTAIN ROAD YESTERDAY TO GET TO THE VALLEY?
PHEW!
HUH
HUH
AKIZUKI WENT TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY BY HIMSELF IN ORDER TO RECOMMEND KYOUICHI GIVE HIMSELF UP. IT WAS THERE THEY HAD A FIGHT, AND CONVERSELY IT ENDED UP THAT KYOUICHI CUT HIM DOWN THAT'S WHAT THE POLICE ARE SAYING ANYWAYS
WHAT WERE THE CONDITIONS OF HIS DEATH? THE CAUSE MUST HAVE BEEN FROM THE SWORD ACROSS HIS CAROTID ARTERY, AND I CAN ASSUME THAT THE TIME OF DEATH WAS BETWEEN 10 AND 10.30.
UNH
UNH
I WONDER IF THAT'S THE SAME GUY.
THAT'S THE TRUCK FROM YESTERDAY.
BUT COULD HE HAVE WALKED FIVE KILOMETRES WHILE IT WAS RAINING?
I WONDER... COULD KYOUICHI REALLY BE THE CRIMINAL?

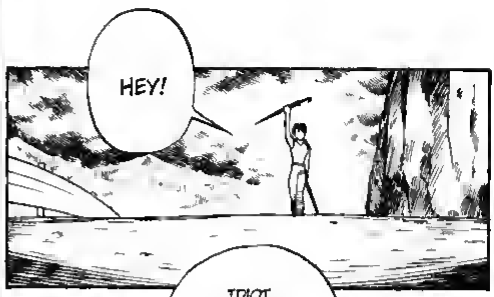
I WAS HOPING SOMEONE WOULD COME BY AND HELP ME...
MY TRUCK'S BEEN STUCK HERE SINCE YESTERDAY! I WAS HERE BETWEEN 8:00 TO 11:00!
EH? SO YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYONE PASS BY?
OKAY, NOW PUSH!
THIS IS THE ONLY ROAD THAT GOES TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY, SO IF HE WAS GOING THERE, HE HAD TO COME THIS WAY.
I GUESS I COULD HAVE MISSED HIM WALKING BY BECAUSE I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP THE WHOLE TIME.
NONE OF THEM STOPPED BECAUSE THEY ALL SEEMED TO BE IN A RUSH.
LET'S SEE.. THERE WAS A POLICE BIKE, AN SUV, AND THE AKIZUKI'S SEDAN.
WHAT? MR. AKIZUKI MUST HAVE PASSED BY ON FOOT!
THEN HOW DID AKIZUKI GET TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY IF THIS IS THE ONLY ROAD!?

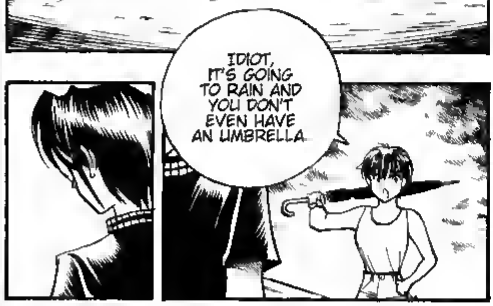
HERE'S WHERE THE CAR SKIDDED YESTERDAY...
OH...

I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE NANAMAGARI VALLEY WAS RIGHT BELOW HERE.


I JUST DON'T GET IT...
WHY DOES THE CRIME SCENE GIVE ME SUCH A STRANGE FEELING.. SOMETHING'S STRANGE..


YO, SHIHO-CHAN!


HEY!


IDIOT, IT'S GOING TO RAIN AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN UMBRELLA

HEY, ARE YOU HARD OF HEARING OR SOMETHING??
YOU SHOULD START HEADING BACK TO THE CITY...

BOY, YOUR MOOD SURE CHANGED FAST.
YOU DON'T REALLY SEEM TO HAVE A CLUE!!
SURPRISED ..?

Y-YOU'RE...
HUH!?
SAKON'S BUDDY? DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED THAT WE'RE GOING OVER IT TOGETHER!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I THINK...
ずいっ

IT'S LOOKS SO REAL, HMM, LIKE A WOMAN...
BUT THIS SEEMS RIGHT...
ボム
ボム

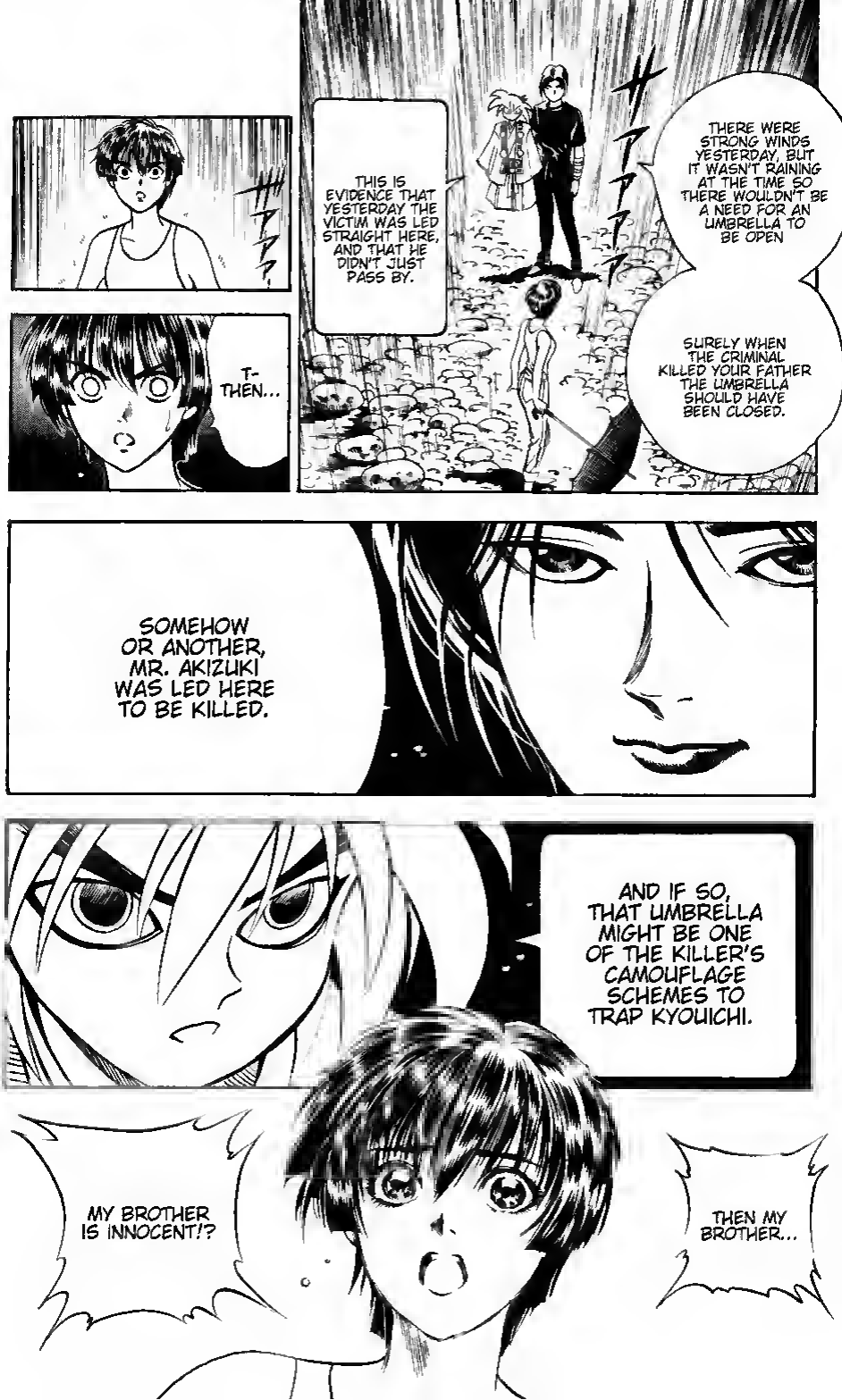
YOU'RE NOT REALLY A WOMAN, ARE YOU!?
THE CLOTHES, YOUR BAD MOUTH, YEP, FOR SURE, YOU'RE A GUY!

バシ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT PUPPET OF YOURS...
.....
What the hell? Is that even the same guy from before?
OWWWOW, WHAT'S THAT COW'S PROBLEM, EH SAKON?
.....
SO THE OLD MAN WAS KILLED, AND THEN FELL DOWN INTO THE VALLEY.
AND THIS IS WHERE THE CORPSE WAS FOUND. .

PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
YEP, IT'S FALLING.
RAIN...
OH, RAIN. IT'S RAINING!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
LET'S GET HOME BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE.
AN UMBRELLA.
HEY, CHECK IT OUT, IT SURE IS FALLING! THERE'S SOME MORE PAYBACK FOR YOU!
Y-you bitch.

THE UMBRELLA!
HUH?
SHIHO, AT THE TIME WHEN KYOUICHI CALLED YESTERDAY, WAS IT RAINING?
UMMM, NO, I'M SURE IT WASN'T RAINING THEN.
SO...?
THERE WAS AN OPEN UMBRELLA AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, THE TYPE THAT YOU MANUALLY OPEN, RIGHT?
AND THERE'S NO WAY THE WIND COULD HAVE JUST BLOWN IT OPEN BY CHANCE!
OH! I GET IT!!
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHY WOULD THERE BE AN OPEN UMBRELLA AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME? ISN'T THAT STRANGE!?


HHP?
T-THEN...
THIS IS EVIDENCE THAT YESTERDAY THE VICTIM WAS LED STRAIGHT HERE, AND THAT HE DIDN'T JUST PASS BY.
HPPP
THERE WERE STRONG WINDS YESTERDAY, BUT IT WASN'T RAINING AT THE TIME SO THERE WOULDN'T BE A NEED FOR AN UMBRELLA TO BE OPEN
SURELY WHEN THE CRIMINAL KILLED YOUR FATHER THE UMBRELLA SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSED.
SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, MR. AKIZUKI WAS LED HERE TO BE KILLED.
AND IF SO, THAT UMBRELLA MIGHT BE ONE OF THE KILLER'S CAMOUFLAGE SCHEMES TO TRAP KYOUICHI.
MY BROTHER IS INNOCENT!?
THEN MY BROTHER...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN.
THIS WASN'T JUST SOME CRIMINAL IMPULSIVELY KILLING PEOPLE TO TRY OUT HIS SWORD...!!
THIS IS A METICULOUSLY PLANNED MURDER CASE!!!

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Release Date: April 4, 2004

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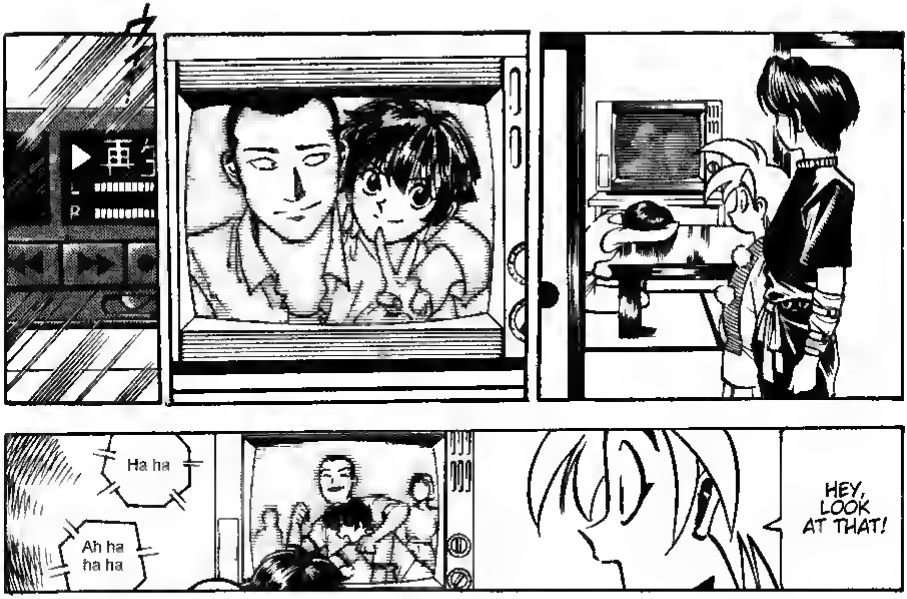
BUT, THROUGH SAKON'S REASONING, IT TURNS OUT THAT THE CRIMINAL HAD KILLED AKIZUKI SOMEWHERE ELSE, AND THEN DUMPED HIS BODY WHERE WE FOUND THE CORPSE! WAS IT REALLY KYOUICHI AFTER ALL? OR IS HE REALLY THE CRIMINAL...? SAKON'S COMING CLOSER TO THE TRUTH!!
YO!! MY NAME'S UKON! THE SHINSHUU AKIZUKI FAMILY INVITED ME AND MY PARTNER SAKON OVER, BUT WE ENDED UP GETTING WRAPPED UP IN A SCARY MURDER CASE! THE AKIZUKI'S FATHER, SOUSHIROU, WENT MISSING, AND IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS CUT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD BY HIS OWN SON, KYOUICHI!

SHINSHUU BYAKKO BLOODRAIN HELL
CHAPTER 3 BLUE HYDRANGEAS AND JIZOU-SAMA

信州百狐血雨地獄
第三段 青い紫陽花とお地蔵様
SHINSHUU BYAKKO BLOODRAIN HELL
CHAPTER 3 BLUE HYDRANGEAS AND JIZOU-SAMA

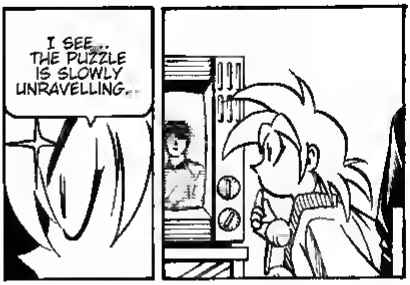
AND NONE OF THOSE REALLY HAD THE TIME TO DROP OFF A CORPSE.
BUT THE OLD GUY WITH THE TRUCK SAID THAT THE ONLY VEHICLES THAT WENT BY WERE A POLICE BIKE, THE AKIZUKI'S SEDAN, AND OKI'S SUV.
I'M SURE MR. AKIZUKI HAD TO HAVE BEEN KILLED SOMEWHERE ELSE.
LIKON, WHAT DO YOU THINK..?
AKIZUKI RESIDENCE
TRUCK
NANAMAGARI VALLEY
IN THAT CASE, HOW COULD THE CRIMINAL HAVE CARRIED THE CORPSE ALL THE WAY TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY WITHOUT BEING SEEN...?

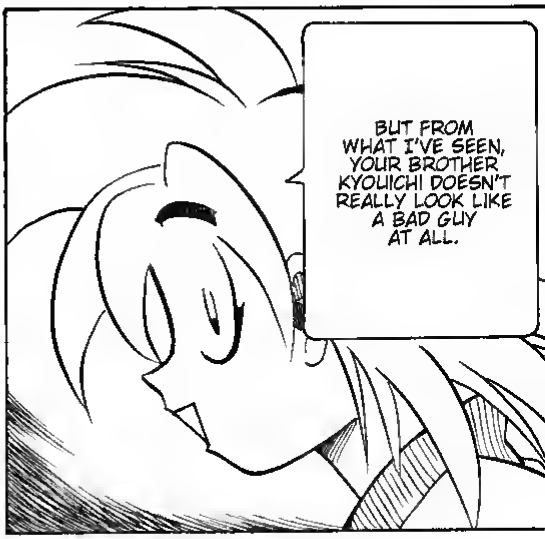

Ha ha
Ah ha ha ha
HEY, LOOK AT THAT!

Hey! Cut it out!!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE LISTENING!!
Ha ha! Hey Bro! Ah ha ha!
HEY, SHIHO!
EVIL MONKEY GIRL!
MAN-WOMAN!
YOU GUY!
OH, THE 'BRO' IN THIS VIDEO IS KYOUICHI?
WHAT'S THIS VIDEO?
AH, YEAH...
SHUT UP! WHAT DO YOU WANT!!
WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE TOTALLY SENSELESS ..
HE WOULD ALWAYS PLAY WITH ME.
WE WEREN'T JUST BROTHER AND SISTER, BUT BEST FRIENDS AS WELL...

YOU ALWAYS BEING WITH YOUR BROTHER MUST BE WHY YOU HAVE SUCH A FOUL MOUTH!!
ぐおわっ


I SEE... THE PUZZLE IS SLOWLY UNRAVELLING...


BUT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, YOUR BROTHER KYOUICHI DOESN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE A BAD GUY AT ALL.

W-what's with the sudden change ?
Hm?

WHY DON'T YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED ONE YEAR AGO...
SHIHO.

NOW IF YOU WANT TO ASK ME SOMETHING, COME OUT AND ASK ME!
THINGS WILL NEVER AGAIN BE THE WAY THEY WERE IN THIS VIDEO.

IT ALL STARTED...
WHEN BYAKKO, A MURAMASA, CAST JUDGEMENT DOWN ON TWO SEPARATE DAYS.
BRO HAD DISAPPEARED WITH HIM... THAT SWORD. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT, THREE PEOPLE WERE CUT DOWN BY THE BLADE.
WEREN'T THERE ANY WITNESSES WHO GOT A CLEAR LOOK AT THE KILLER'S FACE?
NO. THE KILLER COVERED HIS FACE WITH A FOX'S MASK.
AND ARE YOU SURE IT WAS KYOUICHI THAT STOLE BYAKKO?
I GUESS IN ANY CASE, THE KILLER USED BYAKKO, SO EVERYONE THINKS IT WAS BRO.
IS THERE ANY PROOF?
THE NIGHT BYAKKO WAS STOLEN, A WITNESS SAW HIM WANDERING AROUND THE BYAKKO SHRINE HOLDING A LONG, NARROW CASE.
HERE, AT THIS SHRINE.

THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS...

HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THERE'S BEEN ANY FESTIVALS AT THIS SHRINE. PEOPLE REALLY ONLY TO PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS HERE NOW.
BUT WHY WAS HE PROWLING AROUND HERE?

IN ORDER TO AVOID SUSPICION, HE COULD HAVE USED THE CASE TO CARRY THE SWORD AROUND.

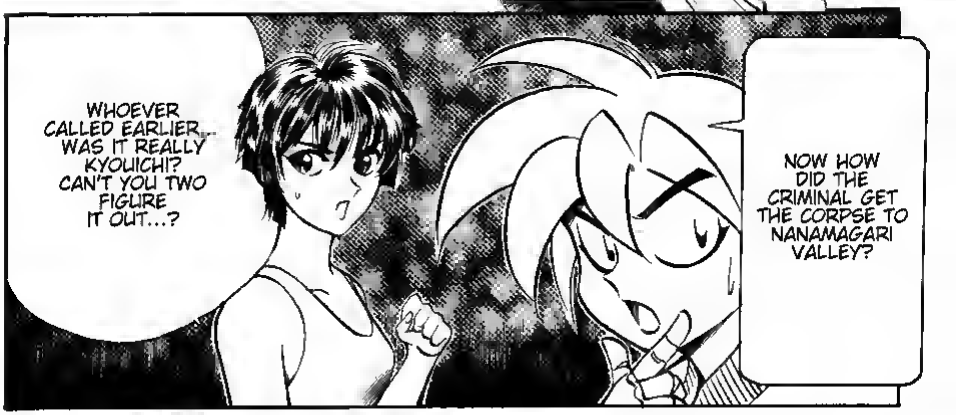
IT WAS AN ALUMINUM CASE FOR HOLDING A TELESCOPE, BUT BECAUSE THEY WERE THE SAME LENGTH, THE SWORD COULD HAVE FIT IN PERFECTLY. WE COULDN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE.
THE CASE WAS PROBABLY THE ONE FROM BRO'S ROOM.

H-HYDRANGEAS
THEY'RE DEEP RED.
A LEGEND HANDED DOWN IN THIS VILLAGE SAYS THAT EVERY YEAR THE BYAKKO SHRINE'S HYDRANGEAS ARE DYED BLOOD RED WITH THE FOX'S CURSE.
AND THAT BYAKKO'S CURSED BLOOD WAS USED IN TEMPERING THAT LEGENDARY SWORD.
IT'S THAT KIND OF SHRINE, HUH?

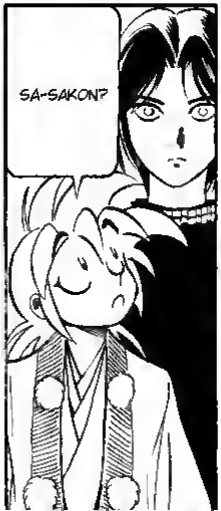
BUT IF IT WASN'T HIM, WHO COULD IT HAVE BEEN..?
HE COULDN'T HAVE KILLED A SINGLE PERSON..!!
BRO WOULD HAVE BEEN THE NEXT HEAD OF THE AKIZUKI FAMILY! HE WASN'T RAISED TO BE SELFISH OR QUICK TEMPERED!
I WONDER IF WHOEVER RAN AWAY WITH THE SWORD BELIEVES IN THAT SUPERSTITION?
WHAT?
HM?
HE WAS SUCH A GOOD GUY. IT'D BE TOTALLY UNEXPECTED IF IT REALLY WAS HIM..
WITH WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE, I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT BRO.
NEVER MIND.
RIGHT.
ANYWAYS, LET'S SORT THROUGH LAST NIGHT'S EVENTS!
OKAY!
RIGHT, SAKON!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WE'LL MAKE SURE WE FIND THE TRUE CRIMINAL!

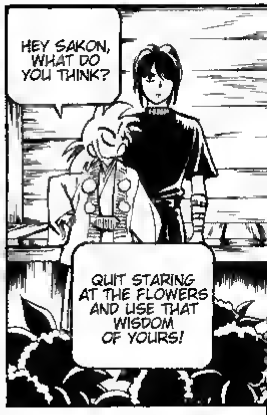
8:00
9:00
10:00
10:30
ESTIMATED TIME OF MURDER
8:05
A VILLAGER "MET" THE KILLER
9:00
OFFICER YOSHIDA CAME TO INFORM THE AKIZUKIS ABOUT THE KILLER
9:10
MR. AKIZUKI SECLUDED HIMSELF IN THE STUDY.
AFTER HERE WE ASSUME DAD SNUCK OUT THE BACK OF THE STUDY
9:55
THE FINE ARTS DEALER OKI SHOWED UP.
AND IT WASN'T RAINING DURING THE ESTIMATED TIME OF MURDER!
10:30
KYOUICHI CALLED TO TELL US ALL TO COME TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY.
10:50
WE FOUND THE CORPSE AT NANAMAGARI VALLEY!!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE REAL CRIMINAL IMITATING KYOUICHI'S VOICE?
WAIT, THERE'S A PROBLEM CONCERNING THE PHONE CALL. OKI AND THE MAID WERE THE ONLY TWO TO HEAR KYOUICHI'S VOICE...
THE MAID HAS ONLY BEEN WORKING HERE FOR HALF A YEAR SO SHE WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE. OKI KNEW HIM THOUGH.
IN THAT CASE IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN BRO AFTER ALL.


NOW HOW DID THE CRIMINAL GET THE CORPSE TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY?
WHOEVER CALLED EARLIER... WAS IT REALLY KYOUICHI? CAN'T YOU TWO FIGURE IT OUT...?

THE HYDRANGEAS...


SA-SAKON?

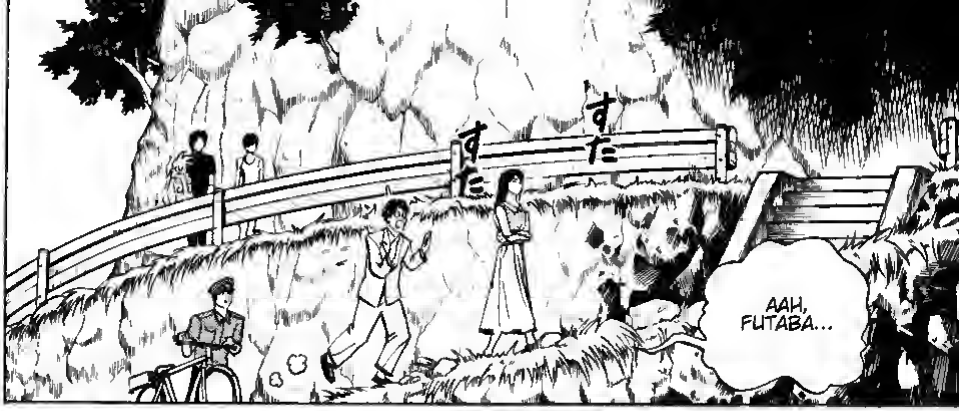

HEY SAKON, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
QUIT STARING AT THE FLOWERS AND USE THAT WISDOM OF YOURS!

IF THEY'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE RED, WHY DOES ONE OF THE BUSHES HAVE BLUE FLOWERS?
PEE? PEE PEE LEVELS?
ARE THE PH LEVELS IN THE SOIL HERE STRANGE?
THE COLOUR OF THE FLOWERS?
WE LEARNED ABOUT IT IN SCIENCE CLASS. THE COMPOSITION OF THE SOIL CAN CHANGE THE COLOUR OF THE HYDRANGEAS.
PH LEVELS!! LIKE THE ACIDITY AND ALKALINE LEVELS.
OH, THE COLOURS REALLY ARE DIFFERENT ON JUST THIS ONE
THEN WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN COMPOSITION OF THE SOIL AT THIS SPOT?

UNDER THE BUSH?
!!
I DON'T KNOW. IT COULD BE THAT SOMEONE BURIED SOMETHING UNDER IT.
SAKON, WHAT IS IT?

IT SEEMS THAT THE PUZZLE IS UNRAVELLING LITTLE BY LITTLE.
HI?!

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DOING AN ON-SITE INSPECTION.
THEY WON'T FIND ANYTHING IF WE DIDN'T!
WHAT IS IT?
SKIDMARKS.
A FEW OF THEM SKID THE SAME WAY.
THAT'S ENOUGH!!
ジャッ
HUH?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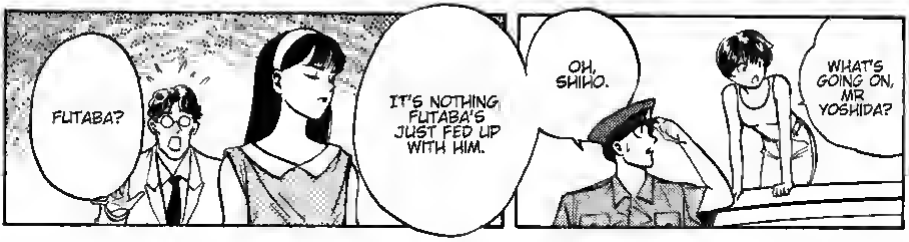
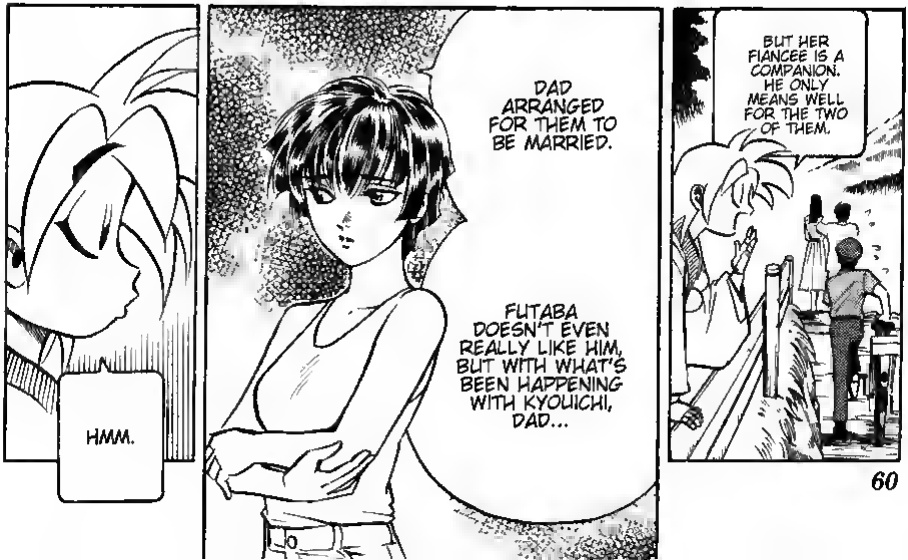
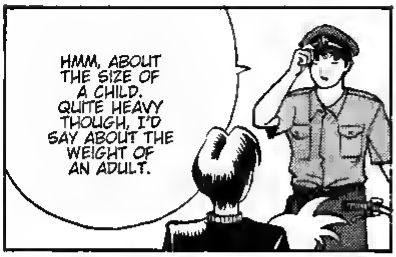
AAH, FUTABA...


FUTABA?
IT'S NOTHING. FUTABA'S JUST FED UP WITH HIM.
OH, SHIHO.
WHAT'S GOING ON, MR YOSHIDA?

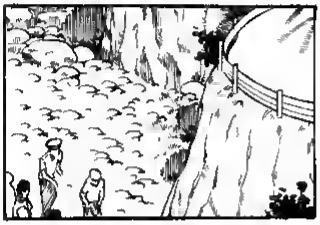
HER FATHER WAS JUST KILLED, THE MURDERER IS HER BROTHER, AND SHE HAS TO PUT UP WITH THE INSENSITIVE POLICE AND HER UNRELIABLE FIANCEE...
HMM. I CAN'T SAY IT'S TOTALLY UNREASONABLE EITHER...

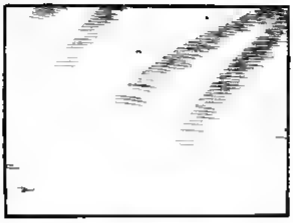

HMM.
DAD ARRANGED FOR THEM TO BE MARRIED.
FUTABA DOESN'T EVEN REALLY LIKE HIM, BUT WITH WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH KYOUICHI, DAD...
BUT HER FIANCEE IS A COMPANION. HE ONLY MEANS WELL FOR THE TWO OF THEM.

BUT LOOK, RECENTLY THERE'S BEEN QUITE A FEW MARKS LEFT HERE
MAYBE THE ROAD WAS CURSED WHILE THE GUARDIAN DEITY JIZOU WAS STOLEN, HA HA HA...
I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IT IS KIND OF WEIRD...
THESE ARE SOME PRETTY HARD SKIDMARKS. ARE THERE A LOT OF ACCIDENTS AT THIS CURVE?
ACCIDENTS? NOT PARTICULARILY..
WELL, IT'S TOO BAD. EVERYBODY GETS HURT.
BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EH? STOLEN? THE JIZOU STATUE FROM AROUND HERE?
YEAH, THREE OR FOUR DAYS AGO. THEN THE NEXT DAY IT WAS RETURNED, COMPLETELY COVERED IN MUD. I GUESS WHOEVER STOLE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS AFRAID OF BEING CURSED...

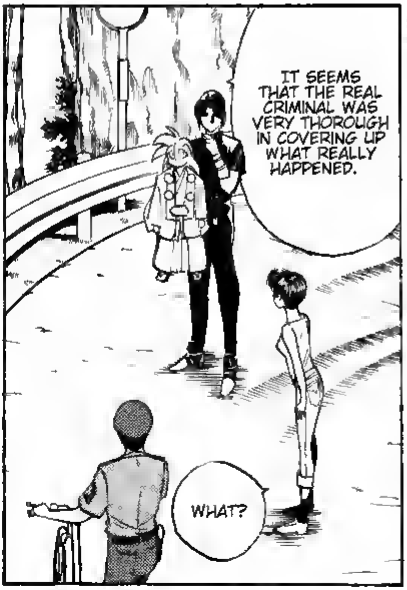

HMM, ABOUT THE SIZE OF A CHILD. QUITE HEAVY THOUGH, I'D SAY ABOUT THE WEIGHT OF AN ADULT.

ABOUT HOW BIG IS THIS JIZOU?





MAYBE...!!

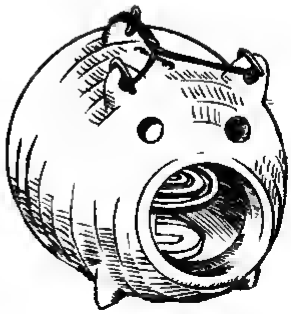

IT SEEMS THAT THE REAL CRIMINAL WAS VERY THOROUGH IN COVERING UP WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
WHAT?

HEH. I'M SURE KYOUICHI ISN'T THE KILLER

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT MR. AKIZUKI DIED A LITTLE BEFORE 10:00?

IN ANY CASE, KYOUICHI CALLED AT 10:30, RIGHT? I'M SURE HE COULDN'T HAVE KILLED HIM AFTER 10:00
I THINK THE AUTOPSY'S RESULTS SHOWED THAT IT WAS LIKELY MR. AKIZUKI DIED A LITTLE BEFORE 10:00, BUT IT'D BE DIFFICULT FOR THE KILLER TO GET HERE THAT FAST, DON'T YOU THINK?

SHIHO, KYOUICHI HAS NO CONNECTION TO THIS CASE.
A TEST...?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ....!
I-I GET IT, SAKON!
THE CRIMINAL USED THE JIZOU TO TEST CARRYING AROUND A CORPSE.
ALL OF THE TRICKS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.
MR. AKIZUKI'S CORPSE WAS CARRIED HERE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE IT WAS KYOUICHI, BUT THERE WASN'T JUST ONE PERSON!!



Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

Volume 3 Chapter 18

A Lost Heaven Project
#lost-heaven @ irc.irchighway.net

Translated/Edited by
aechris

Raw Provider
Dark_Gatsu

Release Date: April 4, 2004

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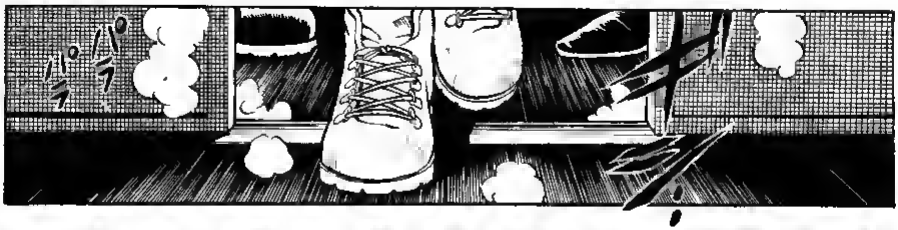
SHINSHUU BYAKKO BLOODRAIN HELL
CHAPTER 4 RETRIBUTION AFTER THE FALLEN SPIRIT

TACHIBANA-KUN TOLD US TO COME HERE BECAUSE HE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL US
REALLY! WE'RE BUSY WITH FATHER'S FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS... RIGHT FUTABA?
WHAT COULD HE POSSIBLY SAY ABOUT THIS PLACE?
WHAT'S UP, SHIHO!? YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON!!
.....
WE KNOW WHO THE CRIMINAL IS...
BUT WE DON'T HAVE PROOF! WE'LL PUT ON A LITTLE PLAY TO REVEAL THE SCHEME...
ONE OF YOU HERE IS THE CRIMINAL...
ドクッ..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WHERE IS THAT LITTLE BRAT!?
WHY THE HELL'D HE CALL US HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

IT'S PRETTY RUDE TO CALL US OUT AND THEN NOT SHOW UP YOURSELF!!
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN!?

AIYA, THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

SAKON...
AH!
WELL THEN.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? WHY'D YOU CALL US ALL HERE!?
HEY! GIVE US AN EXACT EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
THE MYSTERIOUS ENCHANTED SWORD'S DEEDS HAVE BEEN BASED WHOLLY ON RUMOUR, SO IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN SOLVED.
IF YOU COULD ASK QUESTIONS TO SOMEONE NO LONGER LIVING, WOULD YOU TAKE THE CHANCE?
I'VE INVITED YOU, MY FELLOW GUESTS, TO PUT AN END TO THE CASE THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON.

S-SEANCE...!!?
NOW THEN, LET'S CALL THE SPIRIT OF THE ONE KILLED BY BYAKKO. THE SEANCE BEGINS NOW.
ARE YOU THAT MUCH OF AN IDIOT!!?
W-WHAT DO YOU THINK A SEANCE IS GONNA DO...!?
WAIT!
THAT'S ONE THING WE AGREE ON!!
STUPID FOOL!! LET'S GO HOME, FUTABA!
SHIHO. .
YOU ALL HAVE THE TIME FOR THIS.
GIVE HIM A CHANCE. HEAR HIM OUT...

THE HEAD OF THE AKIZUKI FAMILY, SOUSHIROU, WAS KILLED BY BYAKKO AND HAD HIS BODY SENT TO THE SPIRIT WORLD.
NOW, HE IS IN THAT ENDLESS PLACE, FLOATING IN ETERNITY, UNTIL THIS APPOINTED TIME.
.....
PHHT. CALLING SPIRITS.
THIS IS SO STUPID!
I CALL UPON YOU. SHOW YOURSELF TO TELL OF YOUR FATE...

T-THAT MY SON KYOUICHI HAD RETURNED...
AKIZUKI SOUSHIROU ON THE NIGHT THE POLICEMAN CAME WHEN YOU FIRST HEARD OF THE KILLING, WHAT WERE YOU FEELING?
IT'S GOT TO BE VENTRILO-QUISM!!
T-THAT'S DAD'S VOICE...!
EH...!? DAD...!?
HE KNOWS DAD'S VOICE! THIS SEANCE IS JUST A TRICK!!
.....
HM, YOU'RE RIGHT...
AND THEN I PROMISED TO MEET HIM... WE WERE GOING TO LOOK FOR THE REAL KILLER WE WERE TO SECRETLY MEET AT THE BACK ENTRANCE OF THE STUDY...
AND WHAT HAPPENED THERE?
ガタガタ...
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT... AND THEN...
THAT NIGHT YOU CLOSED YOURSELF INTO THE STUDY, IT WASN'T KYOUICHI ON THE PHONE, WAS IT?

IT CAN'T BE!!
I WENT TO THE BACK, BUT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE
I SAW THE BLUE LIGHT OF BYAKKO
I-I AM...
UHH

I AM AKIZUKI KYOUICHI...
NO WAY... THAT'S OUR BROTHER'S VOICE!!
O-OUR BROTHER!!

W-WHERE IS THIS? WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?

KYOUICHI, WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S DARK. I CAN'T BREATHE. I CAN SMELL FLOWERS...

.....

COULD IT BE GENUINE ...!!?
IT CAN'T BE!
K-KYOUICHI DISAPPEARED A YEAR AGO! HOW WOULD HE KNOW HIS VOICE!?
ARE YOU SURE HE'S JUST THROWING HIS VOICE!?

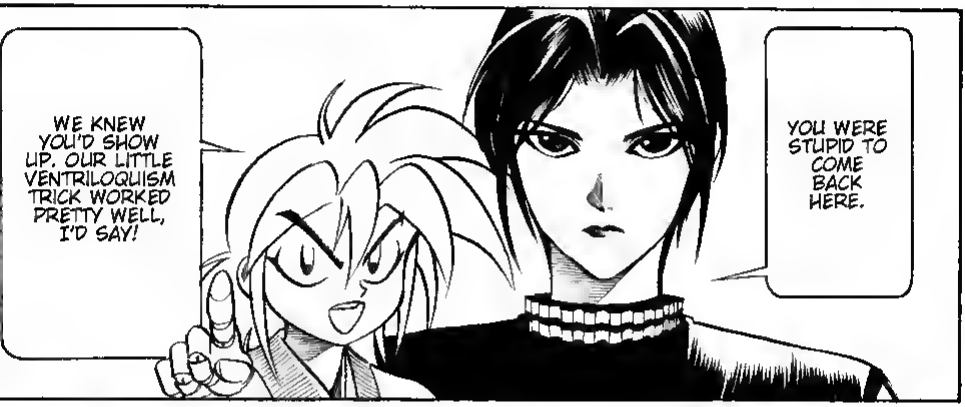
KYAAA!!
どどどどど
GET ME OUT OF HERE!! THE COLD! THE DARKNESS...!
SOMEONE GET ME OUT OF HERE!!!!

YOU!! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE THROWING YOUR VOICE LIKE THAT, BUT YOU'RE BEING CRUEL TO THESE PEOPLE!
FUTABA!!
AIYAA! PLEASE STOP!!
IT'S OKAY, FUTABA.
IT'S REALLY A GHOST ...!
IT'S REALLY ..
THIS IS INEXCUSABLE! STOP THIS AT ONCE!!
W-WAIT UP! I CAN'T WALK...
.....
.....

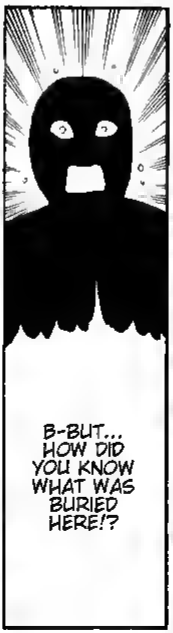
ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHO THE CRIMINAL REALLY IS?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
IT'LL BREAK YOUR HEART. I'M SO SORRY.
WE'LL SURELY DEFEAT THE CRIMINAL'S TRICK TONIGHT!!
BUT JUST WAIT, SHIHO.
What do I do? They know what's going on!
I've gotta think of something, quick...

PANT
PANT
I GUESS THE POINT OF THE SEANCE WAS TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE CORPSE WAS BURIED.
I SHOULD GET BACK TO THE HOUSE PRETTY SOON...
WAIT, BYAKKO!!
FINALLY WE'VE CAUGHT YOUR TAIL!!

HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
W-WHAT? YOU?
.....


WE KNEW YOU'D SHOW UP. OUR LITTLE VENTRILOQUISM TRICK WORKED PRETTY WELL, I'D SAY!
YOU WERE STUPID TO COME BACK HERE.

WE RECEIVED A LESSON ON THE HYDRANGEAS.
THE HYDRANGEAS ...!?


B-BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT WAS BURIED HERE!?

I-IT WAS A TRAP...!?
T-THE SEANCE WAS...

YOU BURIED KYOUICHI'S CORPSE UNDER HERE!!!

YOU BURIED THE CORPSE WITH THE ALUMINUM CASE. THAT CHANGED THE PH LEVEL OF THE SOIL...
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?
THE COMPOSITION OF THE SOIL CHANGED THE COLOUR OF THE HYDRANGEAS.
UHH...
N-NO...
THAT'S WHY THESE FLOWERS BLOOMED A DIFFERENT COLOUR.
YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE SPEAKING WITH THE SUPPOSEDLY DEAD KYOUICHI, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU WERE AFRAID WE KNEW THE LOCATION OF THE CORPSE, SO YOU CAME BACK HERE TO MOVE IT.
THE SEANCE HINTED AT THE FACT THAT HE WAS BURIED SOMEWHERE.

.....
O-OKI...!!!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, OKI!!!!

Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

Volume 3 Chapter 19

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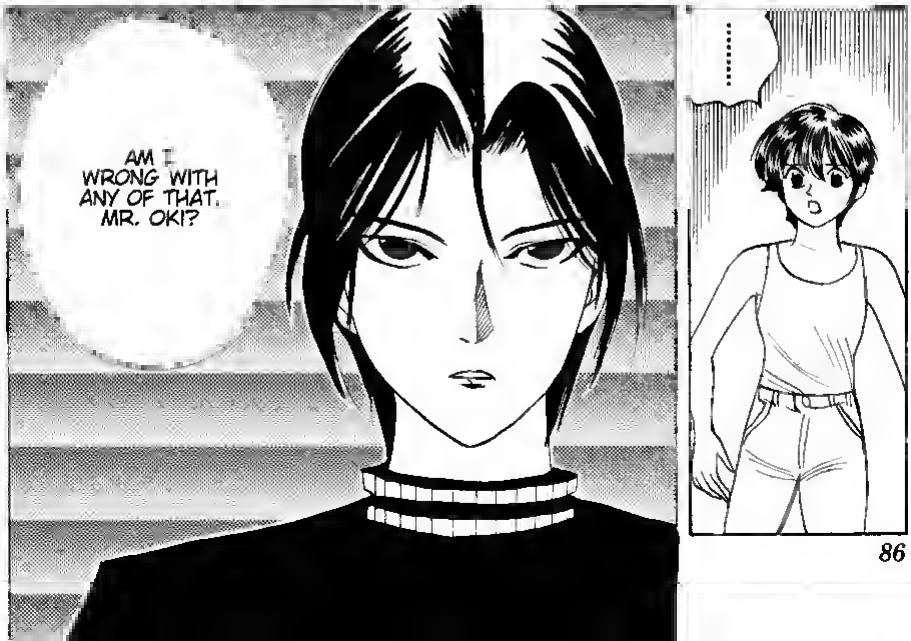
OKI, YOU ARE THE REAL CRIMINAL!
SHINSHUU BYAKKO BLOODRAIN HELL
CHAPTER 5
THE LEGENDARY SWORD'S LOCATION

ONE YEAR AGO, YOU EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASING BYAKKO. YOU WAITED TO MEET WITH KYOUICHI AT THIS SHRINE.
THEN, WHEN HE SHOWED UP WITH THE SWORD YOU KILLED HIM AND BURIED HIS CORPSE.

AFTER THAT, YOU WENT OUT AND KILLED THOSE OTHER PEOPLE TO TEST OUT THE SWORD, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU USED THE LEGEND OF THE SWORD TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE IT WAS KYOUICHI'S DOING.

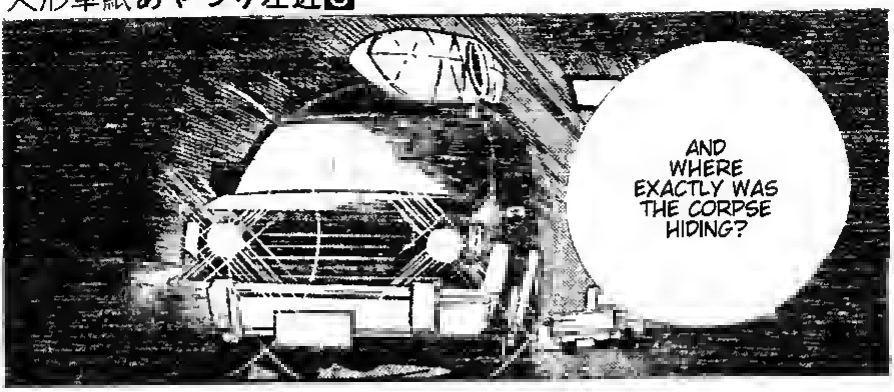

.....
AM I WRONG WITH ANY OF THAT, MR. OK!?

YOU HAD A VERY CRAFTY PLAN GOING FOR YOU. WE WERE WAITING FOR DEFINITIVE EVIDENCE THAT PROVED IT WAS YOU
YOU GOT IT ALL, BUT WHY'D YOU WAIT UNTIL NOW TO CATCH ME?
YOU'RE A SMART KID.
DON'T PLAY DUMB! YOU PRETENDED KYOUICHI KILLED MR. AKIZUKI AND DRAGGED HIS BODY OUT TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY!
AND WHAT'S THAT?
FIRST OF ALL, YOU CALLED THE AKIZUKI RESIDENCE ON YOUR CELL PHONE AS YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY OVER.
SHALL I EXPLAIN THE TRICK TO YOU?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

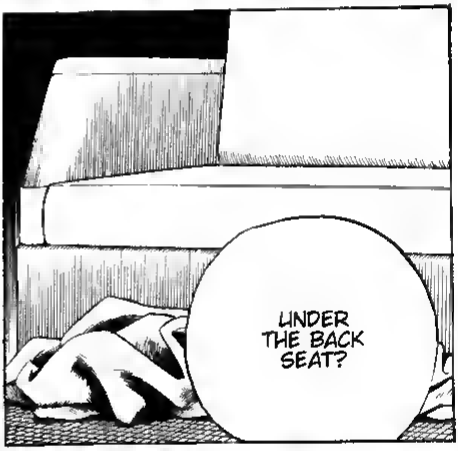
KYOUICHI ....!
HE DIDN'T GIVE HIS NAME.
WHO COULD BE CALLING AT SUCH A BUSY TIME...?
YOU TOLD HIM KYOUICHI WAS READY TO SURRENDER, THAT HE WAS WRONG IN HIS CRIMES, AND THAT HE WAS DESPERATE FOR HIS FATHER'S HELP.
YOU TOLD MR. AKIZUKI THAT KYOUICHI WAS WAITING FOR HIM AT THE BACK ENTRANCE TO THE STUDY.
BECAUSE WE WERE IN THE LIVING ROOM, WE DIDN'T NOTICE MR. AKIZUKI SLIP OUTSIDE, ONLY TO BE KILLED BY YOU...

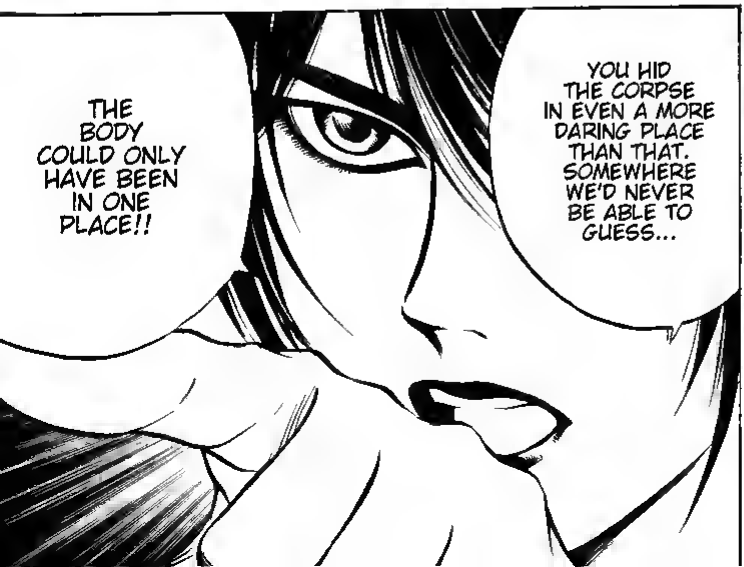
WE HAD NO REASON NOT TO BELIEVE YOU BECAUSE YOU HAD A LONG RAPPORT WITH THE FAMILY.
AFTER THAT, YOU CHANGED YOUR FACE AND SHOWED UP.
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS HIT THE REDIAL BUTTON WITH EASE.
WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT, YOU REACHED INTO YOUR POCKET AND USED YOUR CELL ONCE MORE TO CALL THE AKIZUKI'S PHONE.
IT WAS THEN YOU PUT ON A LITTLE PLAY FOR US BY YOURSELF ON THE PHONE.
YOU MURMURED HIS NAME TO DECEIVE HER INTO THINKING IT WAS HIM.
KYOUICHI!
EH? KYOUICHI ...!?
FURTHERMORE, YOU EVEN TRICKED THE MAID INTO THINKING IT WAS KYOUICHI CALLING BACK.

WHEN YOU THINK OF IT, IT WAS PRETTY CLEVER!
BRO NEVER CALLED AT ALL, IT WAS JUST A TRICK...
THUS CREATING AN ABSOLUTE ALIBI FOR YOURSELF!
AND THEN, RIGHT BEFORE OUR VERY EYES, YOU BOLDLY AND SUCCESSFULLY MOVED AKIZUKI'S BODY TO NANAMAGARI VALLEY.
AND HOW EXACTLY DID YOU MANAGE TO MOVE THE CORPSE?
WHAT THE HELL? HOW DID YOU KNOW?
DESPITE OF ME BEING THERE, YOU STILL BROUGHT IT ALONG.
AT THAT TIME, WE WERE CARRYING THE CORPSE WITH US IN THE SUV. I JUST WASN'T AWARE OF IT.

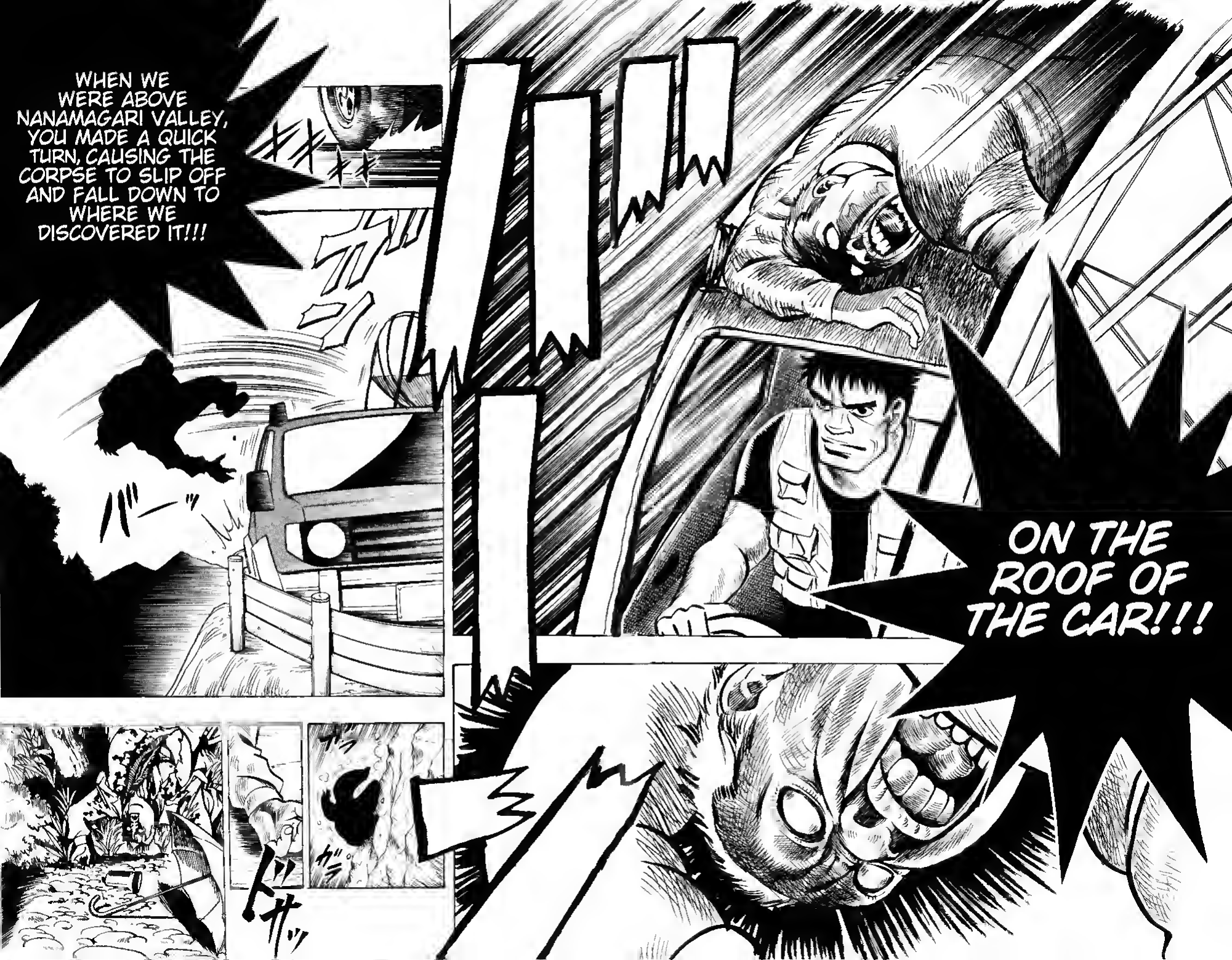

AND WHERE EXACTLY WAS THE CORPSE HIDING?

OR POSSIBLY IN THE CORNER OF THE TRUNK?


UNDER THE BACK SEAT?

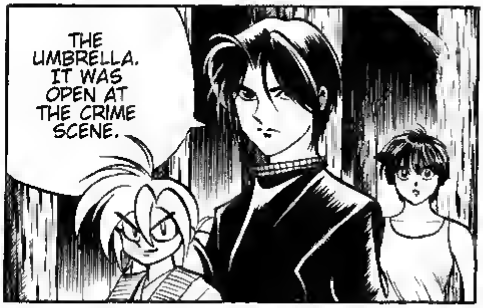

THE BODY COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN IN ONE PLACE!!
YOU HID THE CORPSE IN EVEN A MORE DARING PLACE THAN THAT. SOMEWHERE WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO GUESS...

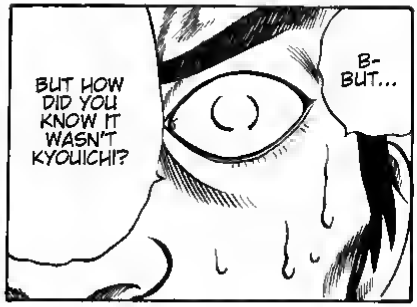
NO, NEITHER OF THOSE.


WHEN WE WERE ABOVE NANAMAGARI VALLEY, YOU MADE A QUICK TURN, CAUSING THE CORPSE TO SLIP OFF AND FALL DOWN TO WHERE WE DISCOVERED IT!!!
ON THE ROOF OF THE CAR!!!

ON THE ROOF OF THE CAR...
IT TOOK CAREFUL PLANNING TO MAKE SURE NONE OF US SAW ANYTHING.
THAT'S WHY YOU MADE SURE IT HAPPENED AT NIGHT, AS WELL MADE SURE TO HIDE IT FROM SIGHT.

YOU MADE SURE THE CORPSE TUMBLED DOWN INTO THE VALLEY JUST BEFORE THE SISTERS GOT THERE TO CREATE THE FALSE MURDER SCENE.


THE UMBRELLA. IT WAS OPEN AT THE CRIME SCENE.


B-BUT...
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WASN'T KYOUICHI!?

IF THE CRIME REALLY WAS COMMITTED AT THAT LOCATION, THE UMBRELLA WOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSED.
IT WASN'T RAINING AT THE TIME, SO KYOUICHI WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A NEED FOR AN UMBRELLA.

W-WHY DID YOU KILL MY BROTHER AND FATHER!?

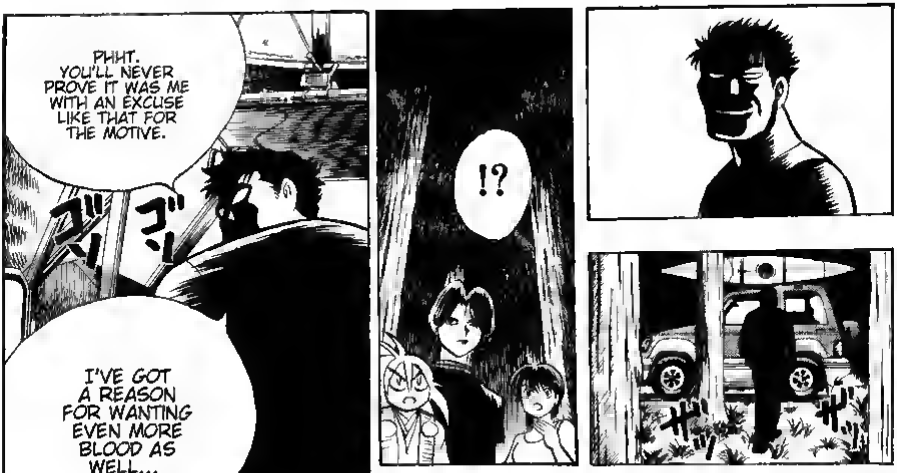
YOU REALLY PLANNED FOR EVERYTHING!!

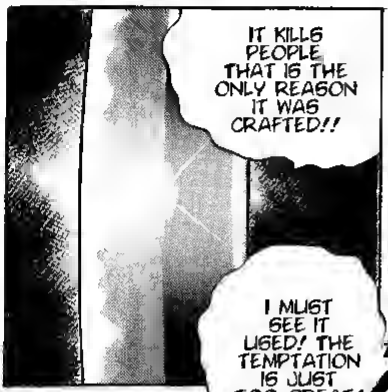
I SHOULD HAVE BURIED HIM TOO.

IT WAS RAINING ALL DAY, SO WHEN YOU DROPPED IT THERE, PROBABLY AT AROUND NOON, YOU LEFT IT OPEN.

IT REALLY WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE KYOUICHI SOLD THE SWORD HIMSELF. SO I NEEDED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIX THE PROBLEM AHEAD OF TIME.
AND I KILLED YOUR FATHER BECAUSE HE WAS SUSPICIOUS ABOUT KYOUICHI'S DISAPPEARANCE.
TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, THE JAPANESE SWORD MARKET IS FAIRLY SMALL. RUMOURS OF THIS RARE GEM GOT OUT AND BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WERE READY TO BE MADE.
I KILLED KYOUICHI TO SHUT HIM UP ABOUT WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE SAID ABOUT ME TAKING THE SWORD.

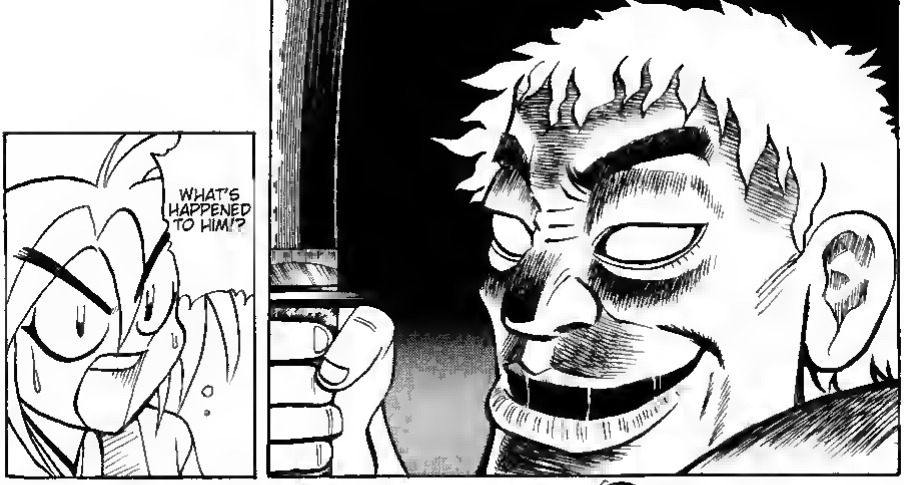
YOU KILLED THEM FOR THAT!?
T-THAT'S IT!?


PHHT. YOU'LL NEVER PROVE IT WAS ME WITH AN EXCUSE LIKE THAT FOR THE MOTIVE.
I'VE GOT A REASON FOR WANTING EVEN MORE BLOOD AS WELL...
!?


IT KILLS PEOPLE. THAT IS THE ONLY REASON IT WAS CRAFTED!!

I MUST SEE IT LIGED! THE TEMPTATION IS JUST TOO GREAT!
ジリ
IT'S A PRODIGY AMONG THE MOST POWERFUL OF SWORDS! AND BY MY HAND... HEH HEH HEH...
ジリ
AH!

LOOK! THIS IS BYAKKO!! ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL!?


WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM!?

FEEL THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE LEGENDARY SWORD BYAKKO!!
SAKON!!

AFTER 500 YEARS, THE SHINE OF MURAMASA HAS BEEN RELEASED!
IT GLOWS WITH THE LIGHT OF HUMAN SOULS!!
HE'S NOT THE SAME GUY! HE'S BEEN POSSESSED BY BYAKKO!
HEH HEH HEH
ジリ
ジリ
!!
NOW DIE!!

!!
!!
GAHH!!!
N-NO...
WHY... ME... BYAKKO...
ヨロ...
どしゃっ
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THE BLOOD DRAWN FROM THE CURSED SWORD DYED THE HYDRANGEAS DEEP RED. THE CURTAIN HAS FALLEN ON THIS CASE.
BYAKKO TOOK CONTROL OF HIM AT HIS VERY END.
AT THAT TIME, OKI FAILED TO REALIZE THAT BYAKKO HAD AIMED FOR HIM, ALTHOUGH TOTALLY BY CHANCE...
THIS BEAUTIFUL SWORD HAS BROKEN...
IN THE MURAMACHI PERIOD, A GENIUS SWORDSMITH CREATED FAMOUS SWORDS THAT EXISTED IN BOTH THE LIGHT AND DARK SIDES OF HISTORY. 500 YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND THE RADIANCE OF MURAMASA'S MYSTERIOUS BLADES STILL SHINE IN TODAY'S MODERN TIMES. TO THINK THAT BYAKKO FOUND DEFEAT IN A CORPSE...

ALTHOUGH THE SWORD IS BEAUTIFUL, HE FAILED TO MISS THE DARKNESS THAT LAY DORMANT ON ITS REVERSE SIDE.
BEFORE HE KNEW IT, BYAKKO'S CHARM HAD TAKEN HIM OVER.
BUT STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL PITY FOR OKI...
LO LO
SO ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND THERE?
WELL...
WHAT IS IT?
HMM.
IT'S NOTHING, THERE'S JUST ONE THING I'M STILL NOT SURE ABOUT..
.....

あっ…
I HEARD HIS VOICE IN THAT VIDEO YOU WERE WATCHING...
THE VIDEO.
HOW DID YOU IMITATE KYOUICHI'S VOICE FOR THE SEANCE IF YOU'VE NEVER MET HIM?
HM?
WAAA! SUCH ANGER!
HOW ABOUT THAT, MAN-WOMAN?
NOW GET GOING TO YOUR BOY'S SCHOOL, BRAT! HEH HEH!
AHH..
カラ…
すっ
ゴソ ゴソ
LET ME SEE FOR A SEC. I WANT TO TRY HIM OUT, JUST ONCE.

She just doesn't understand how I feel...
Man-woman! Man-woman is such an idiot!
Although the case here is solved, I still wanna hang out in this village, Sakon!
I'll look forward to my next chance...
I'LL BE SURE TO VISIT YOU AGAIN...
won't stop for anything